

# Hawaii MARINE

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## PMO praised for high marks

**Cpl. Jason E. Miller**  
*Press Chief*

Recently, when a Department of Defense contracted consulting service came aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, to help improve the functionality of certain facets of the base's operations, more than just the proficiency of the service members involved with the consulting impressed the visitors.

The professionalism and courtesy of the Marines from the Provost Marshal's Office prompted the chief executive officer and founder of Mountain Home Training and Consulting Incorporated, Derril Watts, to personally recognize them for a job well done.

"I am aboard a different military base two to three times a month and I have

See PMO, A-5



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

**Lance Cpl. Ben Crossman, a military police officer for the Military Police Co., checks identification at the front gate aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.**

## Iraqi cooperation



Lance Cpl. Brian L. Wickliffe

**Iraqi soldiers surrender to U.S. Marines making their way north toward Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom. So far, there have been more than 1,000 enemy Prisoners of War as a result of recent surrenders during the operation.**

## DoD leaders urge surrender

### In the midst of the War on Iraq, U.S. leaders offer Iraqi soldiers liberation

**Jim Garamone**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** — Over the past month, coalition aircraft have dropped more than 15 million leaflets over Iraq urging soldiers not to fight and telling civilians how to protect themselves.

As Operation Iraqi Freedom began, there had been some results.

Coalition troops are driving toward Baghdad, and while some Iraqi troops have been surrendering, U.S. officials are

hoping for more.

"The regime is starting to lose control of their country," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday at a Pentagon press conference. "The confusion of Iraqi officials is growing."

The attacks of the last few days have hit communications facilities and cut command and control nodes.

"Their ability to see what is happening on the battlefield, to communicate with their forces and to control their country is slipping away," Rumsfeld said.

He said the Iraqi leaders around Saddam Hussein are beginning to realize that the Iraqi dictator "is history. And as that realization sets in, their behavior is likely to begin to tip and to change."

He said those leaders close to Hussein "will likely begin searching for a way to save themselves."

Those whose loyalty to the regime is enforced by fear are likely to understand they have nothing more to fear from Hussein and may cooperate with coalition forces.

"Officers and soldiers in the field will increasingly see that their interests lies not in dying for a doomed regime, but in helping the forces of Iraq's liberation," the secretary said.

Rumsfeld once again issued a warning to Iraqi military leaders not to use chemical or biological weapons against anyone. Further, he told Iraqi officials not to set fire to Iraq's oil

See WAR, A-5

## Stranded boaters rescued from bay

**Lance Cpl.  
Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

It was a normal Saturday night until the silence was broken and a call came over the radio for help. Two Sailors jumped into action and within minutes were in a rescue boat at the scene of an accident to assist those in danger.

On March 22, a call for assistance was communicated to Sailors on duty at Waterfront Operations aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, who were told by the Coast Guard that a boat had been involved in an accident and was sinking.

The accident took place near Coconut Island in Kaneohe Bay, when the vessel ran into a reef and destroyed the boat's bottom.

It began to fill with water and the passengers lit a flare.

A passing boat saw and called the Coast Guard.

"At first, we did not even know where the boat was or how many people were on it," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Romulo Flores, a boatswain's mate for Waterfront Operations. "I notified the section leader and jumped into a boat with another Sailor. It took us about 10 minutes to get to the boat, and the whole time I was thinking these people could drown."

When the sailors made visual contact with the boat, they were unable to navigate their own boat within reach of the sinking vessel, due to the reefs protruding the surface of the water.

"It was a really confusing situation. We had two different emergency radios giving us information, and we could see the flare but could not get close to it," said Flores. "I knew I had to stay calm and away from the reef or it would damage our

See RESCUE, A-5

## WMD reaction time to be tested

**Staff Sgt.  
Robert Carlson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

The Crisis Management Team aboard MCB Hawaii is scheduled to exercise the installation's ability to react to a Weapons of Mass Destruction incident April 10.

In addition to the MCB Hawaii agencies involved in the Crisis Management Team, Lethal Breeze 03 will include integration of representatives from the Joint Rear Area Coordinator, Hawaii State Civil Defense Agency, the FBI, Castle Medical Center and Tripler Army Medical Center.

A scenario-driven field exercise, Lethal Breeze 03

will help refine procedures for dealing with a chemical or biological incident, and will further increase the anti-terrorism and force protection readiness of the installation.

The exercise will include a mass casualty drill, after which participants will apply their skills to respond to the WMD incident while working to save as many lives as possible. While the priority of force protection and anti-terrorism agencies is to prevent any type of WMD incident, conducting Lethal Breeze will further improve measures in place to protect U.S. interests, service members, civilian employees, family members, facilities and assets.



Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle

**Sailors from Waterfront Operations attempt to bring a boat to shore after being tangled in the massive amounts of salvinia weeds.**

## Sailors clean Lake Wilson

**Lance Cpl.  
Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**WAHIAWA** — Beneath the surface several organisms, both big and small, as well as an array of different species of fish, fill the lake with an abundance of life.

This is how it used to be, until the weeds came along and took over.

Lake Wilson has a problem. In fact, it has a very big problem. The fast-growing salvinia molesta has taken over the entire lake's surface and is choking out all forms of life within.

The pesky weed was introduced to the lake's environment in November when aquatic plants were faultily introduced into the reservoir and began

See CLEAN, A-5

## Patriotic events planned, Saturday

Two separate gatherings to show support for U.S. military forces fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom, one at the State Capitol and one at the Hawaii Convention Center, are scheduled for Saturday.

While service members are allowed to participate, they are encouraged not to let their views or actions be perceived as representing the position of the U.S. Marine Corps or Department of Defense.



# MCBH News Briefs

## MILITARY URGED TO COMPLETE COLA SURVEY

All military and Coast Guard members stationed in the state of Hawaii are encouraged to complete a military Cost of Living Allowance survey sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command during the month of March.

To fill out the survey for Oahu, you will need a survey ticket number, which is the last six digits of your social security number, and a locality code, which is HI009.

Accuracy in completing the survey is critical to the COLA determination process.

## BASE CHAPEL NOW OFFERS MIDWEEK ALL-FAITH SERVICE

In addition to its regularly scheduled services, the Base Chapel aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, will now be open for private prayer Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8 p.m. The chapel will be open every Monday - Friday with an all-faith service every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

## LUNCHEON TO HONOR FEDERAL COMMUNITY

The 2003 Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon will be held on May 7 at 11 a.m. in the Hawaii Ballroom of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel.

The event will spotlight the federal community and recognize exceptional federal employees. A bus will be available for MCB Hawaii personnel attending.

The cost is \$26 and this includes tax and tips. Deadline for purchasing a ticket is April 22.

Tickets can be purchased and picked up at Bldg. 216, Room 6. For more details, contact Mr. McTee at 257-8807.

## HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY HOLDS PETWALK

The Hawaiian Humane Society is looking for people who are passionate about animals and would like to participate in it's annual Petwalk June 22 at 8 a.m. at Magic Island at the Ala Moana Beach Park. Furry and feathered friends are invited as well.

The Humane Society is hoping to have all branches of the military represented at this year's walk.

To register or for more information, contact Cynthia Keolanui at 946-2187, ext. 222.

# Hawaii MARINE

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# IN THE CG's MAIL BOX



BRIG. GEN.  
MCABEE

My name is Corporal James Wiand. I am with 3rd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, Scout/Snipers.

I am currently deployed to the Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as part of the Marine Security Element.

I am also currently 41 days past my expiration of active service due to the stop-loss.

Sir, my concerns are that when I get back to MCB Hawaii, I am not going to have a place to live and I am getting kicked out of my platoon to make room for the new Marines.

What policies and actions are being taken to ensure that the stop-lossed Marines are not becoming the "redheaded stepchildren" of MCB Hawaii.

Cpl. James Wiand

Corporal Wiand,

I have been asked by the com-

manding general to research and respond to your e-mail since your concern falls within my staff responsibilities as Sergeant Major, MCB Hawaii.

He appreciates that you've taken the time to participate in the CG Mail program.

Let me first say how much we appreciate the great work you and your fellow Marines are doing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, especially beyond your expiration of active service.

I want to assure you that no Marine or Sailor on Stop Move/Stop Loss are becoming the "redheaded stepchildren" of MCB Hawaii, and therefore, no such policy is required or needed.

I have looked into your concern and found that your unit's plan for billeting the new Marines from the School of Infantry and other school houses is very sound and you will have a place to live upon your re-

turn.

Being "kicked out of your platoon" may be too negative a statement and is simply not the case.

In order to prepare for and support your battalion's upcoming unit deployment this summer, personnel movements within platoons must be made.

If we didn't make these moves, platoons would be left with critical vacancies, which would be the case upon your departure from active service.

The bottom line is that you will have a place to live upon your return. More importantly, you will not be treated any differently.

Take care of yourself and each other, and be safe.

Again, thank you for taking the time to participate in the CG Mail program.

Sgt. Major F. Ilaoa  
Sergeant Major, MCB Hawaii

*(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)*  
The commanding general invites input from the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we should be doing better?  
Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address so that staff may respond.  
For more information about how to send C.G. Mail, see the MCB Hawaii C.G. Mail page at [www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm](http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/command/cgmail.htm).

# The Officer's Oath



Cpl. Simon Martin

# Troop support mail policy stressed

## Department of Defense Press Release

To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to service members forward deployed unless they are a family member, loved one or personal friend.

On Oct. 30, 2002, the Department of Defense suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Service Member" mail programs, due to force protection concerns.

Although these programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources.

Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited air-

lift space used to transport supplies, warfighting materiel and mail from family and loved ones.

Recently, DoD has become aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the "Any Service Member" program by using the names and addresses of individual service members and unit addresses.

These programs are usually supported by well-intentioned, thoughtful and patriotic groups who are simply unaware of the new risks facing deployed military forces.

Some individuals and groups publicize the names and addresses of service members, ships or units on Web sites, with good intentions. The result, however, is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

The DoD cannot support creative and well-intentioned efforts that defeat force protection measures, but

can instead recommend alternatives to mail and donation programs.

To show support to troops overseas, the following are recommended.

Log on to the following Web sites to show support, to include greeting cards, virtual "Thank You" cards and calling card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved ones.

•[http://www.defendamerica.mil/support\\_troops.html](http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html)

•<http://www.usocares.org/home.htm>

•<http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html>

Also, visit Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes or volunteer your services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.

Mail from family members and loved ones has always been encouraged, and the military mail system will continue to work hard to get that mail to service members overseas.





Sgt. Nathan K. Laforte

Echo Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, learned how to cross country ski and cold weather survival techniques from the soldiers of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force's 25th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division, Northern Army.

# Echo Co. , 2/3, ‘sounds off’

**Sgt. Nathan K. LaForte**  
*MCB Camp Butler*

**HOKKAIDO, Japan** — Tradition is a fundamental building block for today's Marine culture. Units have individual crests, phrases and battle histories that are as important to them as the training they undergo and feats they accomplish.

Echo Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Marine Regiment, built it's own traditions to honor those other companies who have gone before, bearing the same title.

The tradition starts with the title the Big 'E.' Sergeant John Grandstaff, infantryman with 1st Platoon, Echo Co., remembers the beginning of the nickname and what it did for him.

"Our company gunny told us about the nickname of the Big 'E' one day to motivate us," he said. "The name means a lot to me because we work hard, we go to the field to train, we don't mess around and we do our jobs aggressively."

The Marines of the Big "E" have taken care of business consistently since their parent unit's arrival on Okinawa, Japan as part of the unit deployment program. They have undergone training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center and Camp Hansen Central Training Area. They have recently completed the second of a series of semiannual, bilateral exercises called "Forest Light."

Gunnery Sgt. Anthony C. Randle, platoon commander, Weapons Platoon, Echo Co., noted that his Marines' resolve was shown in the



Sgt. Nathan K. Laforte

**The Marines of Echo Co. show how their newly found training in deep snow has paid off during a recent live-fire exercise that took place at Camp Kamifurano, Hokkaido, Japan.**

recent cold weather exercise.

"I expected to take my Marines into a training area they were unfamiliar with, to see if we were capable of training and fighting in an extreme cold weather environment," Randle said. "We have accomplished this task.

I expected them to have a hard time coping with the extreme cold, but the Marines did better than expected."

Randle added that his Marines could help the Big "E" in anything that needs to be done.

"The most positive experience is knowing as a platoon commander that my machinegunners, mortar-men and assault gunners can go in-

to this climate and accomplish any mission the Marine Corps needs us to do," Randle said.

Grandstaff noted that he was also pleased with their efforts during the duration of their time on Okinawa.

"I think we handled business well," the 27 year old noted. "We did what we are trained to do. We showed our war fighting skills and that we are ready for war."

A prior Echo Co. trained for war just over 58 years ago and got their chance at it. The company also belonged to 2nd Bn., but it was the 28th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division.

The Company fought its way into history on the cold, wet morning of Feb. 23, 1945. It was that day when Marines from Echo Co. raised the United States flag over Mt. Suribachi and became the first invaders in four thousand years to raise their country's flag on Japanese soil.

When looking back at the distinguished unit, Grandstaff acknowledged that living up to a unit such as this one would be a hurdle in itself, but not impossible.

"We are up to the challenge of making all the Marines and soldiers with the same company name who came before us proud," Grandstaff declared. "I believe we can take on and overcome any situation."

Grandstaff concluded with the qualities a person must possess in order to make it in his unit.

"It takes a lot of heart and soul to be in the infantry," Grandstaff said. "If you have what it takes, then you are welcome in the Big 'E.'"

# Spouses learn to combat stress

**Lance Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle**  
*Combat Correspondent*

If a unit is deployed at a moment's notice, it could end up on a ship to a third-world country within 24 hours — where a heated, political battle is brewing.

Some of these Marines may have had a family they had to leave behind when duty called.

This is not an uncommon situation in the Marine Corps. After the Marine has deployed, a single family member is often left behind and must find ways to keep the house running.

The Religious Education Facility aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has recently orchestrated a support

group for family members with deployed spouses, scheduled every Wednesday 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

The discussion varies, dependent on the needs of members, to combat the day-to-day stress involved with military life.

"This group is available to anybody on MCB Hawaii, whether you are a man or woman, regardless of religion," said Navy Chaplain (Lt.) Winnie Walmsley, with the MCB Hawaii Base Chapel.

"It is good for them to know that they have a place to vent once in a while with other individuals who have the same problems."



WALMSLEY

with issues."

During the group, childcare is available for children over the age of 2. Children under the age of 2 are allowed to stay with their parents.

For more information, call Lt. Walmsley at 257-3552, ext. 6.

## WORD ON THE STREET

### “What are you doing to support our troops?”



"I help by keeping 110 percent readiness in the Motor Transport section, just in case. If I get called up, we will be ready to help our devil dogs on the front line."

Cpl. Victor Colon

Motor Transport operator  
CSSG-3



"I try to keep them motivated by sending them e-mails and keeping their families uplifted while they are gone."

Gunnery Sgt. James Stanley

Career planner  
CSSG-3



"I pray for them and their safe return, and remain a force in readiness if called upon to relieve them."

Sgt. Marvin Hutchins

Food Service cook  
Headquarters Bn.,  
MCB Hawaii



"I maintain a positive attitude that our troops are well trained, have the best equipment and keep them in my prayers."

Kevin Ginchereau

Retired  
Marine Corps  
staff sergeant



"I support them by doing my job to the best of my ability — everyday."

Sgt. Ricky Bell

Training NCO  
CSSG-3



**Sergeants and below who dare to become Combat Correspondents and would pride themselves on telling the Marine Corps story can seize the opportunity with a lateral move into the 4341 occupational field. Contact Staff Sgt. Robert Carlson, press chief at the Public Affairs Office, at 257-8840, for more information.**



# Sailors volunteer to get down and dirty

## Kawai Nui Marsh gets a needed ecological facelift

**Cpl. Jessica M. Mills**  
*Editor*

**KAILUA** — A slimy, green carpet of muck, known as salvinia molesta, has slowly overtaken the Kawai Nui Marsh, located along the Kapaa Quarry Road. A true hazard, the muck covers the top of the water and suffocates the ecological health of the community.

Recognizing the threat of the devastated marsh, Sailors from the Fleet Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor, and civilians worked side by side during the Windward Ahupua’s Alliance Community Stewardship Day, Saturday, to remove salvinia, water lettuce and litter from the areas around Kapaa Quarry Road and Kapaa Park.

Five different projects were held, including salvinia molesta and other invasive species removal, marsh restoration work, road clean-up and view-plane clearing from the Mokapu Road entrance up to the transfer station.

“All of these problems are called non-point source pollution. What we do on land directly affects our water source,” said Robert Rock, the environmental information specialist for Hawaii’s Department of Customer Services. “The adopt-a-stream program for Kawai Nui Marsh collected 200 tons of pollution off Kapaa Quarry Road. All that pollution would have gone into the marsh, which would have eventually run off into our streams, and then the ocean.”

More than 100 volunteers worked to remove water lettuce and plant native vegetation on the levy side of the marsh by Kapaa Park, while about 50 workers, including Sailors, cleaned out the salvinia from the ponds and streams along Kapaa Quarry Road. They also picked up litter strewn all the way down the stretch of the road.

Workers used pool strainers and netting to remove the stubborn salvinia; they used small rafts to clean out the hard-to-reach places.

“People have to make a decision. Are they going to “talk the talk” or “walk the walk?” questioned

Rock. “We have too many people who say what should be done, and not enough actually doing it.

“It is great to see so many people taking action,” he continued, “especially the military; they are usually our heavy duty detail. They can have a very positive impact on the community when they take a role like this.”

The Sailors took a very active role during the cleanup, walking straight into the muck-covered ponds or taking control of

the rafts so they could help clean up the far ends.

Senator Bob Hogue, R-Kaneohe/Kailua, head of the marsh cleanup project, was also getting knee-deep in the muck, working side by side with Sailors and civilians.

“These small ponds were completely overgrown. It was like a green shag carpet of salvinia and water lettuce,” said Sen. Hogue. “But, these volunteers are making an impact. Although it may be slow, it is paying off.”



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

**Corinne Brown, an eighth grade teacher at Moanalua Middle School joined in the fight to keep the Kawai Nui Marsh clean.**



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

**Senator Bob Hogue, R-Kailua/Kaneohe, had no qualms about getting dirty during the clean-up.**

RESCUE, From A-1

boat, as well. I also knew that I had to find a way to get to the other boat in a hurry.”

Shortly afterward, another safety boat from Waterfront Operations arrived and led the way around the reef and to the vessel, which had sunk. The people on board were lucky; they were able to stand on the reef and they

PMO, From A-1

had the opportunity to see many different approaches to security,” said Watts.

“The efficiency and courtesy I experienced at MCB Hawaii was refreshing! I have worked for the military for over 20 years (active duty, civil service, and now a DoD contractor) and have seen very few operations that can meet the high standards of your organization.”

Watts went on to thank the Provost Marshal himself, Lt. Col. Marc Lambert, for his achievements in leading a force that sets a standard for keeping military installations safe, while serving the community well.

“I will be using MCBH as an example of the right way to provide base security with a focus on customer service,” he added.

CLEAN, From A-1

to rapidly spread across the surface. Because of the ample nutrients and ideal conditions for growth, the plant has grown at such a rapid pace it can double itself in three to 10 days, depending on the climatic conditions.

Sailors from Waterfront Operations aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, began to clean the plant from the lake Monday, along with the Army and the assistance of the Division of Aquatic Resources, State of Hawaii.

“It’s strenuous work because the plant has grown so thick; you have to stop every 10 minutes because the plants clog the boat’s engine,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Dominic Valderrama, a boatswains mate for Waterfront Operations. “We are making progress, but we still have a long way to go.”

During the clean up, the Sailors from Waterfront Operations assisted in netting large quantities of the plant and dragging it closer to the shore so excavators could remove it from the reservoir.

“The Navy has given us more manpower in cleaning Lake Wilson,” said Glenn Higashi, an aquatic biologist for the DAR. “We appreciate any help we can get with this crisis because it won’t be long until the plant has totally destroyed Lake Wilson.”

After the plant was removed, the Navy also assisted in transporting the weed to an empty field for it to decompose and turn into mulch for growing pineapples.

“Today was only the beginning,” said Valder - rama. “We still have a long way to go until Lake Wilson is totally free of the salvinia weed.”

were wearing safety jackets. Upon approaching the stranded boaters, the crew learned there were seven passengers, three of whom were children.

“A lot of bad things could have happened to those

people had there not been a reef there to stand on or had they not been wearing a safety jacket,” said Flores. “We managed to get them all home safely to their families without being harmed. That is what really counts.”

WAR, From A-1

fields or to damage dams or waterways to cause floods. He also told the Iraqi military not to use innocent civilians as human shields.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. Richard Myers,

also had a message for Iraqi military personnel.

"I urge you in the strongest possible terms: Do the honorable thing, stop fighting now so that you may live to enjoy a free Iraq where you and your children can grow and prosper."